

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before a national election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also, I feel, a blatant and intentional violation of the Federal Election Law! Allowing Sinclair, or any broadcaster to abuse their license in this way opens the possibility that the airwaves themselves may be used to cause irreparable harm to the nation. I believe this to be exactly the reverse of the mandate which accompanies the privilege of a broadcast license by the FCC.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and in their use, is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It can not be argued that the use of the airwaves to promote a particular candidate in a given election, other than offering a clearly labeled editorial opinion to that effect, serves a valid public interest. Quite the contrary! I believe Sinclair is, thereby, usurping the public airwaves for its own demonstrated Corporate interests alone!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. At every relicensure, a licensee should be required to demonstrate fair and unbiased reporting, adherence to FCC regulations and all pertinent federal laws.

Part of this demonstration of being worthy of a public license to broadcast should be a public reconciliation for concerns and complaints from the public such as mine. This statement is offered in that hope.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
David E Dillman